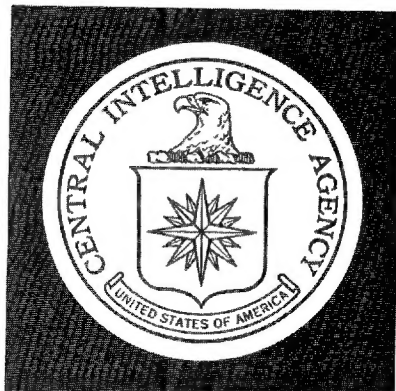




DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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29 August 1968

State Dept. review completed

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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

## CONTENTS

Czechoslovakia: Situation report. (Page 1)

South Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 5)

USSR-Czechoslovakia: Dissent on Czechoslovakia policy is being heard within the USSR, although on a small scale. (Page 6)

Jordan-Israel: Amman fears another major Israeli attack is imminent. (Page 8)

Non-Nuclear Conference: Many states will probably try to extract benefits for signing the nonproliferation treaty. (Page 9)

Mexico: Large demonstration points up the government's underestimate of student unity. (Page 10)

Guatemala: US ambassador probably was a victim of the FAR. (Page 11)

Philippines-USSR: Relations cool (Page 12)

South Korea: Possible cabinet changes (Page 12)

SECRET

SECRET

**[Czechoslovakia:** The Dubcek regime has weathered the first 48 hours of the critical postsettlement period successfully averting, for the moment, outbursts of public indignation.

Prime Minister Cernik and National Assembly president Smrkovsky yesterday joined other leaders pleading for order, understanding, and acceptance of the Moscow agreement. In contrast to the angry and defiant mood of many Czechoslovaks immediately after the agreement was published, the mood yesterday was decidedly calmer. Although bitterness remains just below the surface, most Czechoslovaks have resumed their daily routines, apparently adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

In his address, Cernik divulged more details of the agreement. He confirmed, for example, reports that the interventionist forces are to be withdrawn in several stages. He also indicated, however, that no date for final withdrawal had been set. Within a few days, he said, the government will appeal to the intervening states to agree to talks "as soon as possible" on the withdrawal. Tanyug, the Yugoslav news agency, reported that the Czechoslovaks will meet with Soviet and Eastern European leaders again in Dresden in 10 or 15 days.

Cernik also said that talks will be held in Moscow in the same period on economic problems. These apparently will include proposals for restitution for damages incurred during the intervention.

Dubcek has yet to win formal parliamentary and party endorsement of the Moscow agreement. The National Assembly yesterday adopted an eight-point statement that appears to call for further negotiations with the Soviets and their allies. Nor has the status of the new party central committee elected by last week's 14th congress, which Moscow continues to label illegal, been resolved. Dubcek seems to be ]

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[bending to the Soviet position, but is opposed by several district party organizations. Last night, however, the Slovak party congress gave him a boost by calling for reconvening of the congress.

Former Slovak party boss Bilak, a leading conservative, was defended by a prominent liberal at the Slovak congress yesterday. This is consistent with reports that the Soviets have insisted that Bilak and other conservatives must be retained by the Dubcek regime.

In initial commentary on the four-day talks, Soviet media are leaving little doubt that Moscow expects a rapid crackdown on "anti-socialist elements" and "enemies of the people." Commentary stresses the continued "subversive" activity within Czechoslovakia, particularly by the clandestine radio stations.

A Pravda editorial by prominent political commentator Yuri Zhukov stressed the continued activity of the "rabid counterrevolutionaries" and stated that the measures worked out in the course of the negotiations "will facilitate the liquidation of the threat to socialism" in Czechoslovakia. An editorial in Izvestia stressed that the counterrevolution continues and that the Czechoslovak party has the means and forces to cope with it.

There has been no substantial change in the status of the forces deployed in Czechoslovakia, nor have there been any indications that the Soviets are preparing to intervene in Rumania. [ ] (Map) ]

25X1

29 Aug 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

Approved For Release 2004/01/15 : CIA-RDP79T00975A012000030001-4

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South Vietnam: The ground war shifted to the area west and south of Saigon on 27-28 August.

Allied sweeps made contact with one enemy unit near the provincial capital of Hau Nghia Province and another about nine miles south of Saigon in Long An Province. A total of ten allied positions in the III Corps area were shelled.

Some of the action near Saigon is probably intended to screen enemy movements toward the capital city. [ ] continue to indicate that the Communists plan to stage diversionary attacks in areas just outside the city to draw out allied forces and permit enemy units to penetrate the city. The latest reports claim that a major attack on Saigon will be launched after 1 September.

The level of ground fighting throughout the country continued to decline on 27-28 August. Outside of the Saigon area there were small unit actions near provincial capitals in the northern coastal provinces and scattered mortar attacks against allied bases.

In their propaganda, the Communists are beginning to emphasize the long-range nature of the present military campaign, suggesting that they intend to sustain the fighting over a comparatively long period of time. On 27 August, Liberation Radio characterized each of the major areas recently attacked (Tay Ninh, the delta, and the northern provinces) as individual "general offensives," each one contributing to the "high tide of our general offensive." The broadcast seemed to be promising a continuing flow of small-scale local actions designed to wear down allied defenses over a long pull. [ ] (Map) ]

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[USSR-Czechoslovakia: A Soviet poetess, Natalia Gorbanevskaya, has sent a letter to Rude Pravo and a number of Western newspapers, describing a demonstration on 25 August in Moscow by a group of intellectuals against the occupation of Czechoslovakia.

She says the demonstration was designed to let the Czechoslovaks know that not all Soviet citizens approve the action taken in their name by the Soviet Government. The demonstrators, sitting in Red Square near the exit from which the Czechoslovak delegation was to depart the Kremlin that evening, displayed placards supporting Czechoslovakia's cause. They were set upon by a squad of secret police who shouted "They are all Jews! Beat the anti-Soviets!", and enthusiastically roughed up the unresisting demonstrators in the process of arresting them.

The US Embassy in Moscow has also heard of the arrest of about a dozen individuals in Leningrad who circulated a petition supporting the Czechoslovak reform and who have been charged with "anti-Soviet agitation." There is also a report that "something similar happened in Gorky," but no details are available.

There are also faint sounds of discord over the Czechoslovak issue at the official level. Pravda and most other publications have been tracing the trouble in Czechoslovakia exclusively to a "counter-revolutionary" minority connected with "Western imperialists." Trud and Komsomolskaya Pravda, on the other hand, have published reports quoting denials by Czechoslovak citizens that there was ever any danger of "counterrevolution." These reports also reveal that Czechoslovak bitterness over the intervention is widespread. Both of these newspapers could be expected to be particularly responsive to the instructions of politburo member Shelepin, who has been reported to have been one of those opposed to military intervention. Although more solid signs ]

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[on Shelepin's position are lacking, his political ambitions have been frustrated under the Brezhnev leadership and he could have an interest in showing that it has mismanaged the Czechoslovak problem.



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Jordan-Israel: The Jordanian Government claims that another major Israeli attack is imminent.

Jordanian officials led by the viceroy, Prince Muhammad, have informed ambassadors of the US, UK, France, and the USSR that the Israelis have moved more than 100 tanks into Israeli-occupied Syria just north of Jordan. They stated that an attack employing such a force could not be considered a simple raid, and that Jordan would request assistance from other Arab states should it occur. Amman would presumably want air support as well as the use of Iraqi troops stationed in northern Jordan. The Jordanians clearly fear that the Israelis will attempt to seize the strategic heights of northern Jordan.

King Husayn is now in Pakistan to attend the wedding of his brother, Crown Prince Hasan. Prince Muhammad [redacted] could be exaggerating reports of the Israeli buildup, which is so far not confirmed by Western observers. In addition, recent indications that Algeria will soon release the Israeli airliner hijacked last month would seem to argue against the Israelis' mounting a major attack at this time. [redacted]

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Non-Nuclear Conference: Many states represented at the Non-Nuclear Conference (NNC), which opens in Geneva today, are expected to seek more benefits as compensation for signing the nonproliferation treaty.

The NNC is the result of a Pakistani-sponsored resolution passed by the 21st General Assembly in 1966. It directed that the members of the UN without nuclear weapons be convened to discuss such questions as their security, cooperation to prevent proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Pakistan, which hopes its delegate will be elected president of the NNC, intended that the conference should evolve a common nonnuclear viewpoint to facilitate discussions with the nuclear nations. About 80 non-nuclear countries will attend, with four nuclear powers present as observers.

The recent endorsement by the General Assembly of the nonproliferation treaty has led a number of nonnuclear states to see the conference as an outlet for their dissatisfactions with the treaty and as an opportunity to place additional demands on the nuclear powers. Much discussion will focus on the security assurances formula passed by the Security Council as part of the treaty package. Some countries would like binding commitments that a nuclear power would come to the aid of a nonnuclear state threatened by or under nuclear attack.

A West German official spokesman has announced that Foreign Minister Brandt will attend the conference. Brandt's ability to play a prominent role, however, has been circumscribed by Chancellor Kiesinger's decision after the Soviet aggression against Czechoslovakia to delay signing the treaty.

There is interest among the Afro-Asians and the Italians in establishing the conference as a continuing body. Many countries oppose this, however, believing it would undermine other disarmament agencies.

25X1

29 Aug 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

9

Approved For Release 2004/01/15 : CIA-RDP79T00975A012000030001-4

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Mexico: The disciplined demonstration by some 100,000 students on 27 August is further evidence of government miscalculation of the unity and determination of protesting students.

For the past month, the government has leaned over backwards to avoid repetition of the student-police clashes in late July. Students have been permitted to demonstrate, to publish their views, and even to issue leaflets insulting the President and calling for violence.

The government's low-key response to student demands and its general underplaying of the crisis have appeared to reflect a belief that the movement would run out of steam well before the opening of the Olympics in October.

Yesterday, however, police used force to break up a "camp-in" by about 2,000 students, who had ended their demonstration by pitching makeshift tents near the national palace. The students had announced that they would stay until 1 September, when President Diaz Ordaz opens the congress with a state of the union address. The police action will probably provoke some retaliatory demonstrations and students may now be more susceptible to extremist agitation.

Although students have not yet been able to enlist active support from other sectors of the population, the embassy reports uneasiness among labor leaders who fear erosion of their control over the rank and file if the student strike continues much longer.

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Guatemala: US Ambassador John Gordon Mein who was killed yesterday afternoon was probably a victim of the Communist Rebel Armed Forces (FAR).

Reports indicate that the terrorists were probably attempting to kidnap him for use in a trade for FAR leader Carlos Francisco Ondonez who was arrested in Guatemala City on 24 August. The ambassador was killed while attempting to evade capture. In January, two members of the US military aid group were assassinated by the same terrorist organization.

[REDACTED]

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President Mendez has called for a state of siege, and security forces have begun a country-wide search for the killers. [REDACTED]

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Philippines-USSR: Tentative moves toward initiation of trade and other contacts between the Philippines and Communist nations have been set back by the Soviet Union's occupation of Czechoslovakia.

President Marcos has revoked authorized trips by Filipino nationals to the USSR and other Eastern European nations involved in the occupation and, according to several officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs, the contemplated opening of direct trade ties with Eastern European countries will be delayed. At present Manila has no diplomatic ties with any Communist state, but reportedly the Filipinos have recently been considering moves in this direction. [REDACTED]

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\* \* \* \*

South Korea: President Pak Chong-hui is apparently planning extensive high-level changes in his administration, including the replacement of Prime Minister Chong Il-kwon. The timing of the shifts is not yet firm, but they may come as early as next month. Plans for a cabinet shake-up partly reflect Pak's desire to damp down factional infighting caused by former government party leader Kim Chong-pil's withdrawal earlier this summer from all official positions. Moreover, those individuals most frequently mentioned for higher office are committed to Pak's continued leadership and established policies. [REDACTED]

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